

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-17, 19, 20, 25-32, 40-46, 48-50, 52-56, 58 and 63-72 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 19, 25-27, 30, 40, 42, 52, 58, 63-65 and 68 are amended and claims 12, 18, 21-24, 47, 51, 57 and 59-62 are cancelled.

Claims 1-7, 9-32 and 40-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yamamoto et al. (Yamamoto), U.S. Patent No. 6,381,428. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 42 call for a cover that is capable of being opened and is structured to allow the photoreceptor to be loaded in and unloaded from the mainframe; and an evacuation mechanism that is linked to the cover and evacuates the developing unit from a moving path of the photoreceptor by moving the developing unit along a direction away from the photoreceptor when the cover is opened.

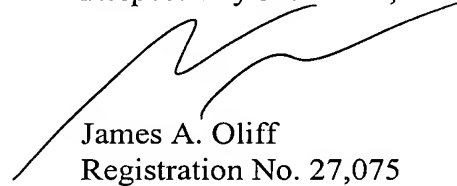
Yamamoto's Fig. 5 illustrates how the photoconductors 1 (alleged photoreceptor) and the development devices 5 (alleged developing unit) can be removed from the image forming apparatus. However, Yamamoto fails to disclose any evacuation mechanism that is linked to a cover and evacuates the development devices 5 from a moving path of the photoconductors 1 by moving the development devices 5 along a direction away from the photoconductors 1 when the cover is opened.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: May 21, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--